OLD ENGLAND:
OR,
The CONSTITUTIONAL JOURNAL.

By JEFFREY BROADBOTTOM, *of* Covent-Garden, *Esq*;

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 1744. [No. 64.]

TWO very extraordinary *State Papers* have been lately made public, in avow'd Oppoſition to each other: Both cannot be *true*. In Support of the *Firſt*, the following Things have been ſaid. Let thoſe who can, put in an Anſwer, by Way of Juſtification of the *Laſt*.

His M——y had not been long Abroad, before the Public was alarmed here, without knowing the real Cauſe, that ſome *extraordinary* Demands and Propoſals of Negotiations were made HERE by the *French* Miniſter, M. *Buſſy*, to the Lords Juſtices; and the Anſwer, as then reported, was, *That the Subject of them was of ſuch a Nature, that* THEY *could not treat of them, but that he muſt treat of them with his M——y*. If this any ways related to *Hanover*, it is not at all ſurpriſing, that he ſhould be referred entirely to his M----y; but it would be extremely ſo, if it no ways related to *this* Nation, that the *French* Miniſter ſhould propoſe to enter *here* into a Negotiation without his M----y, as to what concerned *Hanover* ALONE. M. *Buſſy* ſoon after left this Kingdom; and Letters from *Hanover* of the 8th of *September*, N. S. acquainted us of the Arrival of M. *Buſſy* there, of his having had his firſt Audience of his M----y, and that Lord *H——n* was ordered to confer with him; that he had two Conferences with him, and that the Subject-matter was *the Differences between* Great Britain *and* France, *the Affairs of the Empire, and the preſent War with* Spain. If this was true, it proves every Thing; and, indeed, *France* was not in the Situation of Complaiſance to keep any unneceſſary Secrets for the Benefit of our Adminiſtration, as will appear more fully afterwards. But ſuppoſing only the Facts, of the Conferences and the Perſons negotiating, to be true, does it not prove, that the Beginning and Introduction of the Affair was treated of, in Purſuance of the Inſtructions he was ſent with, as Matters relating to *Great Britain?* And as yet we know of no other interfering of the *German* Miniſters, than the ſigning of the *very Act of Neutrality*, which does not relate to *England* by any Words therein inſerted.

But *France* would have negotiated HERE: *France* too began this Negotiation, of which this Act was a Part, with the *Engliſh* Miniſter at *Hanover*. What is the Concluſion, if it is not, that *France* did deſign, and did then treat of Matters which related to, and affected *this* Nation? To our Sorrow, they are become a too knowing and mighty Nation to be trifled with. They would deſpiſe that mean Quibble, deſign'd for *home-Uſe* only, the *preſent* deſired Diſtinction of ſeparating the Intereſts and Engagements of *Hanover* and *England*. They were too wiſe, when they had the firſt of theſe Dominions at their *Mercy*, without it's having any poſſible Aſſiſtance from this Nation, or any other, to ſpare it, only *for the Sake of ſparing it*. They knew too well, how *England* was, and could be held by it; an Opportunity they would not part with, without obtaining whatever they deſired from this Nation.

It is unneceſſary to enter into any long Detail, of either the *Hanover* Miniſter's being at *Paris*, or the Letter of his M——y, promiſing his Vote to the Elector of *Bavaria*; the Manner and Time of doing it, or Mr. *Trevor*'s DENYING, *by Authority*, to the *States-General*, the making of the *Act* of *Neutrality*. Theſe are Points of a more minute Conſideration at preſent. Sufficient for us it is to know, that it was concluded in *September*; and to ſee the Senſe and Purport of the whole of the Agreement, in the immediate and declared Senſe of *France*, which ſhe, ſo ſoon after, as the 2d of *October*, N. S. communicated to the States-General, by her Miniſter, M. *Fenelon*, and which was, (according to our Informations from thence) *That the King of* England *had demanded of the King of* France *the* Neutrality *for his* German *Dominions, and that that Monarch promiſed not to give any Succours to the Queen of* Hungary, *nor* to oppoſe the DESIGNS of *France*'s ALLIES; *that, moreover, his* Britannic *Majeſty had given his Vote to the Elector of* Bavaria *to be Emperor; and at the ſame Time declared, that he was diſpoſed to accommodate Matters with* Spain, *upon the Conditions that his moſt* CHRISTIAN MAJESTY *ſhall judge the moſt reaſonable and equitable.*

Did ever *France* make ſo glorious a Figure before? Was there ever a more clear or ſhorter State of the Advantage obtained by her? By the firſt Part of this Declaration, indeed, it appears plainly, that the *Act* of *Neutrality* is for his Majeſty's *German* Dominions alone, and does not take in *England* into the Stipulation of Safety and no Loſs: But how does the Concluſion relate to *England*, with regard to the Conſequence of the thus demanded, and thus granted-Neutrality?

Before we enter into the particular Examination of the ſeveral Points contained in this Declaration, let it be obſerved, that this was the Declaration of a public Miniſter of *France*, in a Place and Manner in which it was impoſſible it ſhould not be known to all *Europe*, as it is; which, if falſe and groundleſs, would have been *contradicted* by as public Authority, and in as public a Manner. *Nothing of which has appeared:* No Mitigations, or leſſening of it, or Explanations, have been *attempted*, not even at home, by the *loweſt Tools* of *miniſterial* Impoſition. The Public here has a Right to be informed of all extraordinary Alterations or Events that may affect them or *Europe*; and this admitted in the famous *Enquiry* for juſtifying the Meaſures of the *Hanover* Treaty. The Speech from the Throne, at the Meeting of a Parliament, formerly acquainted them and the Nation, of the general State of Affairs, and of any material Alterations that had intervened ſince their laſt Separation. His M-----'s Speech (after this Neutrality) proves *too much* by it's *Silence* on every Head, which the Nation expected to be informed of; and as to which their Uneaſineſs and Apprehenſions could no ways be *quieted*, but by the *Declarations* of ſo great an Authority; inſtead of which, the Speech, as to theſe Affairs, appeals entirely to, and calls upon the Parliament for Counſel, in theſe very remarkable and expreſs Words, That he makes *no Doubt but that you are met together* fully ſenſible *of our* PRESENT SITUATION, *and prepared to give him ſuch Advice*, &c.

How is any Member of Parliament, or this Nation in general, ſenſible of our *preſent Situation?* Unleſs it be allowed and admitted, as it never yet has been contradicted, that the Accounts we have received, and have been mentioned, of the foreign Tranſactions of his M——y and other Powers, are *true?* Without this, it is even impoſſible to ſuppoſe or imagine, that we could be *prepared to give him Advice*, at the Meeting of the Parliament, before any Thing was communicated from the Throne, or by the Miniſters. You muſt not therefore be ſurprized, if the Miniſters ſhould be for *refuſing* the entire and proper Lights for examining into theſe Affairs any further, ſince it is already declared, you are *fully ſenſible* of them; and that what was, and is generally *known* and *believed*, of theſe Things, *undenied* by them, *is true*; conſequently the producing of theſe Papers relating to theſe Affairs, can be of no other Uſe, than as *Proofs* to ſupport a *Charge againſt them.*

Having premiſed this, I ſhall conſider and argue upon the ſeveral Matters contained in the *Declaration* of M. *Fenelon*, as *undeniable* Facts; and farther, I ſhall endeavour to prove them ſo, or, at leaſt, that ſubſequent Tranſactions have *correſponded* with them ſo far, as to leave them to be no otherwiſe to be accounted for, from what yet appears.

The firſt which I ſhall mention, and which brings me back to the Obſervation of the Conduct of the War againſt *Spain*, is, that his M——y *promiſed not to give any Succours to the Queen of* Hungary, *nor to oppoſe the Deſigns of the* ALLIES *of* France. Had it been the Elector of *Hanover* only that made this Promiſe, this *Part* of the *Act* of *Neutrality* could no ways relate to *England*. But his M——y is treated with by all Powers abroad as our *Monarch*, without it is *expreſly* declared otherwiſe; and *France* is not to be trifled with in this *Diſtinction*; for the Article relating to *Spain* fully proves, that they underſtood the whole to be promiſed in his *Regal Capacity*.

Spain is certainly one of thoſe Allies of *France*, that had Deſigns againſt the Queen of *Hungary*, and which *France*, to be ſure, was deſirous ſhould not be oppoſed: This we might have ſuppoſed, without the Gift of Foreknowledge: And who can now doubt of it: I ſay now, that *Spain* has ventured to ſend to *Italy* above 200 Tranſports, from that open Road of *Barcelona*, convoy'd by three Men of War only; and that the Marquis *De St. Gilles*, the *Spaniſh* Miniſter, ſhould declare at the *Hague*, that *thoſe Troops would go, and very eaſily too, there being no Obſtruction?*

In conſidering the Conduct of our Fleet at this Time, it is neceſſary juſt to reflect, that the hiring of four Tranſports at *Barcelona* to carry great Guns, and a great Liſt of General Officers, without any Troops ready to embark, not long ago, ſo alarm'd our Miniſters, that *all our Fleet* was to go and protect *Minorca* againſt this formidable Embarkation, which then gave Occaſion to *the letting out* the *Cadiz* Squadron. Having mention'd this, I ſhall take Notice, that the *Spaniards* had now, for ſeveral Months, been making *real Preparations for an Embarkation* at the *ſame Place*, which was no *Secret* to any Part of *Europe*, much leſs to our Miniſters at home, or Officers in the *Mediterranean*. The laſt were, no doubt, ſufficiently concerned at it, and acquainted our Miniſters with it, and had, or deſired, proper Orders relating to it. Yet, notwithſtanding our great Superiority in thoſe Seas, the Enemy were *ſuffer'd* to ſail away *unmoleſted, undiſturbed*, without ſo much as a Ship being ſent by us to hinder them.

Thus much is to be found in a * Piece, which, tho' publiſh'd in 1741-2, remains STILL UNAN-

* *A Letter from a Member of the laſt Parliament to a Member of the preſent.*

SUPPOSE. For what remains, if the Reader conſults the ANNALS of *Europe* for 1741, he will find that, in ſeven Days after the Treaty for the *Neutrality* of *Hanover* was ſign'd, *De Court* the *French* admiral endeavour'd to ſail from *Toulon*, and in twelve actually did ſail, to take the *Spaniſh* Fleet into his Protection. And that under his PROTECTION, the ſaid Fleet did paſs the Straits of *Gibraltar* in PEACE AND SAFETY.

N. B. *The Letter ſign'd* A. B. *is come to hand, and ſhall be made Uſe of.*

N. B. *Whereas there has been a very extraordinary Demand for our* FOUR *Letters of* February *the 25th*, March *the 3d, 10th, and 17th, they are now reprinted in* 8vo. *and may be had of* B. Cowſe, *in* Pater-noſter-Row. *Price* 6 *d.*

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By an IMPARTIAL HAND.

The firſt Number of this Work will be publiſh'd on Saturday the Twenty-eighth of this Inſtant, containing Three Sheets in Folio, upon a new Letter and good Paper.

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FACTION DETECTED.

In a LETTER to the AUTHOR of that WEIGHTY Performance.

——— *Miſerum Fortuna Sinonem*
Finxit, Vanum, etiam Mendacemque Improba finxit.

—— *Abandon'd Villains never value the Shame of being detected, provided they think the Lye will be of ſome Service to them for a Day, or even for an Hour.*

Anſwer to the Remarks upon the *Craftſman*'s Vindication, *Page* 42.

Printed for J. Robinſon, at the Golden Lyon in Ludgate ſtreet.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

SPAIN.

Carthagena, March 31. The French and Spaniſh Squadrons are ſtill in this Port, and it will be ſome time before they can put to Sea again, becauſe the Spaniſh Ships are very much damag'd, and that this Place is not very well provided with Naval Stores.

ITALY.

Naples, April 1. The King pardon'd all the State Priſoners that were taken up by the Tribunal of *Inquiſition* before he ſet out for the Army; ſeveral of them reſolv'd to follow his Majeſty, and make the Campaign under him. We are fitting out here two Ships of the Line, two Frigates, four Gallies four Galliots, and four large Feluccas.

Genoa, April 13. The Republick having receiv'd Advice, that the King of Sardinia ſeems to have a mind to form a Camp on our Coaſt, in order to be at hand to ſtop the Spaniards in caſe they ſhould force the Paſſage of Villafranca, the Senate have conſented to ſome Troops to advance to Gavi, under the Command of M. Lucciniali.

Turin, April 6. We hear from Villafranca, that Admiral Matthews, with the Britiſh Fleet under his Command, was every Hour expected there; that the Antelope and Nonſuch were juſt arriv'd; and that the former, with the Dartmouth, had been immediately ſent down to St. Tropez, where three Britiſh Men of War were actually blockading a Convoy of 14 Tranſports and three French Gallies, loaden with Troops, and deſign'd for St. Antjace, on the other Side of the Caſtle of Villafranca, and from whence both that Port and our Intrenchments might have been taken in the Rear.

HOLLAND.

Hague, April 23. This Morning the Marquefs de Fenelon went in the State-Coach to the Aſſembly of the States-General, follow'd by nine Coaches and ſix, thirty-ſix and four, and thirty-two drawn by two Horſes, and made a long Harrangue; wherein he explain'd the Intentions of the King his Maſter, and took his Leave of their High Mightineſſes. Among other Things he ſtrongly charg'd England with having hinder'd the Queen of Hungary from accepting the Propoſals of Peace made to her, and with a Deſign to aſſume a deſpotick Authority in Europe, under Colour of maintaining the Ballance of Power. His Excellency alſo inform'd their High Mightineſſes that the King of France had declar'd War againſt the Queen of Hungary and the King of Sardinia, as Diſturbers of the public Tranquility under the vain Pretext of the Pragmatic Sanction; and that he, the Embaſſador, did not ſtay here, becauſe he was going to ſerve in the Army, at the Head of which his Majeſty was coming to put himſelf, in order to attack the Low Countries. At the ſame Time he ſtily dropp'd a Sort of Complaint againſt the Succour of 20,000 Men which the Republick has lately order'd to be added to thoſe that were to have attack'd Alſace, &c. laſt Year.

To which the Preſident made this ſhort Anſwer:

'*Sir*, We ſhall forthwith take your Harrangue into Conſideration, and will give you an Anſwer as ſoon as poſſible.'

The Marqueſs de Fenelon having deliver'd, according to Cuſtom, his Harrangue in Writing, one of the Members of the Aſſembly return'd it to him, ſaying, that it was not ſign'd; upon which the Embaſſador taking hold of it, anſwer'd; 'I 'will ſign it with all my Heart, and would even freely ſign it 'with my Blood to give a Proof of my Candour and Frankneſs.' He was anſwer'd, *It is ſufficient to ſign it with Ink.*

LONDON.

Monday Night his Grace the Duke of Devonſhire, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, arriv'd at his Houſe in Piccadilly from that Kingdom, and ſoon after his Grace waited on his Majeſty at St. James's, and met with a moſt gracious Reception.

Laſt Saturday a general Preſs began for recruiting his Majeſty's Regiments, and manning the Fleet, when upwards of 1000 Men were ſecur'd in the ſeveral Gaols of London and Weſtminſter; they are allow'd Six-pence a Head *per Diem*, by the Commiſſioners of the Land-Tax.

Laſt Sunday one Henry White, who was preſs'd the Night before, and confin'd in Wood-ſtreet Compter, cut off three of his Fingers, in order to diſable him from ſerving his Majeſty abroad.

The ſame Day, after ſecond Service, a great Number more of Swiſs Servants that are Regimented as Volunteers for his Majeſty's Service, under the Command of the Hon. Col. Desjean, were ſworn by Sir Thomas Deveil, at the Tennis-Court near the Duke of Newcaſtle's Houſe, and gave great Marks of their Loyalty to his Majeſty in repeated Shouts of *Long live King George, and make him victorious over all his Enemies.*

We hear that the Revenue of the Exciſe in England and Wales amounted laſt Year to 3,500,000 l. excluſive of all Charges in collecting and managing the ſaid Revenue; a fine Sum if rightly applied.

It is ſaid the Value of the Imports from France to England, from January 1, 1742, to January 1, 1743, amounted to upwards of 400,000 l. This Trade the French have carried on with England for twenty Years paſt, at the Expence of the Honour and Intereſt of the Britiſh Nation.

On Thurſday 7-Night George Venables Vernon, Eſq; Member of Parliament for Lithfield, was married to the Hon. Miſs Harcourt, Siſter to the Right Hon. the Lord Viſcount Harcourt, a beautiful young Lady with a conſiderable Fortune: After the Ceremony was over the new married Couple ſet out for his Seat at Sidbury in Derbyſhire to celebrate their Nuptials.

On Saturday laſt the Right Hon. the Lord Carteret, one of his Majeſty's Principal Secretaries of State, was married to the Hon. Miſs Farmer, Daughter to the Right Hon. the Earl of Pomfret, a young Lady of great Beauty and Fortune. The Ceremony was perform'd at the Earl of Pomfret's Houſe.

On Saturday laſt Margaret Stanſbury, who was condemned laſt July Seſſions at the Old Bailey, for robbing Capt. Morgan, at the noted Blood-bowl Houſe in Hanging Sword-Alley, Fleet-ſtreet, but reſpited on Account of her being with Child, of which ſhe was deliver'd a Month ſince, receiv'd his Majeſty's moſt gracious Repricve in order for Tranſportation.

Some of our Men of War in the Mediterranean have taken two French Prizes, one bound from the Levant for Marſeilles, and the other from Genoa for Valentia, and they are both carried into Villafranca.

The Swift Privateer, Capt. Hudſon, has taken a French Privateer, and carried her into the Downs, call'd the Cæſar, Francois Fontain, belonging to St. Valory; ſhe carried 10 Guns and 38 Men.

By the European, Hunter, Maſter, juſt arriv'd in the River from Newcaſtle, there is Advice, that he lept upwards of 70 Sail of Colliers loaded there ready to ſail, none of which, but himſelf, would venture to Sea for fear of French Privateers: The ſaid Ship was ſome time ago attack'd by a Spaniſh Privateer, (about 36 Leagues to the Weſtward of Cape Spartel) of 10 Carriage and 22 Swivel Guns, and 75 Men, with whom he engag'd two Hours, and altho' the Privateer boarded him, Capt. Hunter and his Crew behav'd ſo gallantly, that he oblig'd her to ſheer off, leaving ten Spaniſh Sailors on board, eight of whom afterwards jump'd over-board, and the other two he brought to England. What was very remarkable, a Boy about 12 Years of Age ſhot the Captain of the Privateer thro' one of the Port-Holes, as was confirm'd by the two Priſoners.

On the 27th of laſt Month the Diſpatch, Power, from Oporto for London, by hard Gales of Wind and thick Weather, fell in with the Rocks near Uſhant, and was then drove into Doranenez near Breſt.

By Letters from Plymouth we hear, that thirteen large French Men of War are cruizing in the Mouth of the Channel, ſo that no Ships, either homeward or outward bound, can eſcape them.

We have Advice from the ſame Place, that on the 8th Inſtant a Spaniſh Privateer was ſeen on a Cruize off the Start; that ſhe carries 12 Guns beſides Patteraroes; her Cutwater is like that of a Pinnace, and has a Lion Head; has been late ſtern'd, is very crank, a new-built Veſſel, and came lately from St. Sebaſtian's.

Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman on board the John, Captain Grey, from Maryland, arriv'd in Portland Road:

On the 7th Inſtant, at Ten in the Morning, in Latitude 48. 13. we ſaw ſeveral large Ships about two Leagues a-head of us, ſteering N. E. which gave us great Pleaſure in hopes of Convoy (not having heard of a French War) but to our great Mortification they prov'd to be 13 Sail of French Men of War, and one Dutch Merchant Ship, (which we apprehended to be a Prize.) As ſoon as they were within Gun-ſhot one of them hoiſted French Colours, and ſaluted us with a Shot, which oblig'd us to bring to; the next Salute was, *D —— n you, you Raſcal, hoiſt your Boat out, and come on board, or we'll ſink you*, in very good Engliſh. The Wind blew ſo exceeding hard that our Boat could not live a Minute, which we told them, and they knew it as well as we. She then fired ſeveral Shot at us; carry'd away two of our Main-top-maſt Shrouds, Fore-top-ſail Tye, and Four-top-maſt Stay. She kept us along-ſide and under her Quarter about four Hours; but the Wind rather increaſing than abating could not board us, which gave us Hopes that by favour of the Night we had a Chance, tho' we were ſurrounded by the whole Fleet. We all lay under Reef Main-Sails from Four till Eleven; but they driving faſter than we increas'd our Hopes, and when the Day was in, we had a Man at the Maſt-head continually, till about half an Hour after Eleven, when we were certain they could not ſee us, then we haul'd up our Main-ſail, ſet our Fore-ſail, and kept our Ship before the Wind, and heard no more of them.

From the London Gazette.

Admiralty Office, April 14. His Majeſty's Ship the Fox, being on a Cruize on the Coaſt of Portugal, fell in, on the 14th of laſt Month, about twenty Leagues to the Weſtward of the Burlings, with the famous Privateer Scooner belonging to Bayonne, which is ſaid to out-ſail every Privateer in Galicia, and, after a Chace of five Hours, took her. She mounted ſix Carriage Guns, ſix large Braſs Swivel Guns of three Pounders, and twelve Iron Patteraroes, and carried eighty Men.

His Majeſty's Ship the Saphire, commanded by Capt. Saunders, took off of Oſtend, on the 7th Inſtant, a Galliot Hoy from Dantzick, bound to Dunkirk, having on board 193 Officers and Soldiers, and about 60 Arms, for the Service of the French King. The Officers and Men were raiſed for the Service of Count Lowendahl's Regiment at Dunkirk.

Extract of a Letter from Portſmouth, dated April 15.

This Day ſailed to the Weſtward, Sir Charles Hardy in the St. George, Admiral Martin in the Sandwich, with the Men of War under their Command, having under their Convoy the Store Ships and Victuallers, &c. for Gibraltar, and ſeveral Merchant Ships for Oporto, Liſbon, and other Places.

A Dutch Ship arrived, the Maſter whereof reports, that he was in Company with the Breſt Squadron from the 7th to the 11th Inſtant, during which time they took twelve Engliſh Veſſels and ſent them to Breſt.

We hear his Majeſty will ſoon review in Hyde-Park Col. Dejean's Volunteer Regiment of Switzers.

On Monday Night the Great Cauſe was ended in the Houſe of Lords, which had been ſeveral Days hearing, between Iſabella Le Neves, Appellant, and John Norris an Infant, and others, Reſpondents, when their Lordſhips affirm'd the Decree of the Court of Chancery, this being the firſt Appeal from that Court ſince the preſent Lord Chancellor preſided in it.

Tueſday the Red Regiment of Militia of the City and Liberty of Weſtminſter, under the Command of Sir Thomas De Veil, march'd from St. James's Square to Tothill-Fields, where they were review'd by the ſaid Gentleman, and Samuel Tuffnell, Eſq; their Lieutenant-Colonel; a greater Number of ſubſtantial Inhabitants and Houſe-Keepers having never appear'd upon the like Occaſion.

Tueſday the Conſtables preſs'd ſome Jews in the Court of Requeſts, whoſe Buſineſs was to ſell obſcene Books and Prints, which they carried privately about them.

Tueſday a Woman well dreſs'd was unfortunately run over by a Cart in Queen-Street, and was ſo miſerably bruis'd that her Life is deſpair'd of. The Cart and Horſes were ſeiz'd, and the Driver committed to the Poultry-Compter.

Sunday being the Birth-Day of his Royal Highneſs the Duke of Cumberland, who then enter'd into the 24th Year of his Age, there was a great Court at St. James's, when his Majeſty receiv'd the Compliments on that Occaſion.

BANKRUPTS.

George Auſten, of Berwick-Street, Weſtminſter, Coach and Coach-Harneſs Maker.

John Wright, of the Pariſh of Chriſt-Church, Middleſex, Mercer.

John Burnett, late of St Andrew Holborn, Diſtiller and Victualler, but now of St. Botolph Aldgate, Chapman.

John Adams, late of Wem in the County of Salop, Grocer, Ironmonger and Chapman.

This Day is publiſh'd,

(Price One Shilling and Six-pence)

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